

Addendum for Lesson 6 Study Guide

As you do the study guide for this week, especially question 8, I want to make a couple of points clear that I may not have covered well in the talk.

The Bible does not teach “once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic” or the idea of being a recovering alcoholic for life. Drunkards can be free in Christ. If someone has struggled sinfully with alcohol in the past, it is possible (but not profitable?) for them to learn to enjoy a glass of wine or a beer as a refreshment without craving the “buzz” or the mind altering affect. However, if someone has been trapped by this sin and then tastes the freedom in Christ, drinking usually becomes so disgusting that they WANT to abstain, not out of obligation, but out of love for God and others. Having a ministry mind-set, they never want to touch alcohol again because they know the trap of it and want to be a good witness to others. They know firsthand how Satan can use their freedom to drink to tempt another person. They flee temptation so their lives can honor God.

Drug abuse, on the other hand, is never ok. People don’t smoke marijuana or pop a bunch of pain pills for “refreshment.” These type of drugs are used for the mind altering affect and are therefore always a sinful lust. We want to be full of the Holy Spirit with our minds set on Christ, not clouded with drugs or alcohol.